

II.

(FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.)
LONDON, April 28.

This, however, is not the place to develop such considerations as these. I indicate them and pass on. Nor do I enter upon a discussion of Arnold's poetry or of his religious and political work and influence. Those who care for his poetry will care for it more than for any other, or almost any other, of his time. Those who do not, cannot be coaxed into liking it. His religious or theological influence he himself thought conservative. I remember his astonishment when to some account of a late book on this subject—I think "Catholicism and the Bible"—you, or rather as I said before, one of the wilder spirits in your office, prefixed to the headline "British Unbelief." He saw how much there is in current theological dogmas which it has become impossible to preserve. All the more he wanted to preserve what had not become impossible. But the orthodox were furious, and I suppose, may for some time yet continue to be furious. If they but knew it, Arnold was on their side, only wiser than they. He had no better fate in his handling of political topics. He was not so, and could not be a partisan. He applied to current disputes the solvent of a clear intelligence to which nothing was entirely admirable. I am afraid he had been an American, you would have called him, as you call a man of a very different order of mind, Mr. Lowell, a Mugwump. His treatment of the Irish question is an example of what I mean, but into that I will not venture. Other persons he wrote with a freedom that sometimes gave offence. "Friendship's Garland" had long since proved that he had no prudishness in saying what he thought ought to be said, even though it might give pain to individuals. There was an almost equal want of reverence in his allusions to Mr. Sala and to Mr. Gladstone. His epithets sometimes stung; sometimes he changed them lest they might sting. It once happened that he said to a statesman with whom he had been conversing:—
"By the bye, I have written an article which is coming out in the next 'Nineteenth Century', in which I have called you an extraordinary young man." Nothing more was said, but when the article appeared the adjective extraordinary, which was probably used in an equivoical sense, had been cancelled, and a laudatory one, had been substituted. The talk had shown him how he had misjudged his man. He proved, in one of his instances, how little he really had of that self-resistance, which is supposed to be characteristic of authors. The attempt to explain the Trinity by a reference to "the three Lord Shaftesburys" was whatever else may be thought of it, one of the wittiest things I have seen in modern literature. But it gave offence, and when he was convinced of that, he expunged it, and expressed his regret for having exposed the susceptibilities of the very people who had least spared his. Nor did he ever seem to care how much publicity he conferred upon people of no importance. If they served his purpose

pose, he named them. His books are full of examples, and posterity will be in many cases enabled to identify these flies in amber.

The circumstances in life have been much commented on. He was never rich and never poor. His Inspectorship of Schools gave him a moderate income, his books brought him in something, he was paid high prices for those magazine articles which he wrote rather freely late in life. When he resigned his place in the Education Department he continued to receive, under the rules governing the English Civil Service, a yearly sum equal to two-thirds of his salary. He had a pension upon the civil list of \$1,250 a year in addition. Twice in his life, however, he sacrificed brilliant opportunities. The first was when, upon his marriage, he resigned his place as private secretary to the late Lord Lansdowne, which he held from 1847 to 1851. I always understood that he gave this up in order to marry, though why private secretaryship should be thought incompatible with matrimony it is not easy to see. Perhaps it was a caprice of Lord Lansdowne. To be private secretary to these days is to a nobleman like Lord Lansdowne was to be sure of preferment, unless something happened to displace the nobleman; but it was a general that Arnold should pass from such a post to a mere school inspectorship. But if he made any sacrifice to marry, assuredly he never regretted it; he rejoiced in domestic life. The second opportunity was declining Mr Gladstone's Ministry of 1880. Arnold had then become recognized as the great writer of his services to education had gone far beyond the nature of his office, and his reports on Continental systems had impressed even the bureaucratic mind. Many men, and among them some Ministers, had long felt that the failure to provide some better place for a man like Arnold was a discredit to the Government. A Charity Commissionership fell opportunely vacant, worth \$6,000 a year. It was not magnificent, but it was reckoned a prize in the Civil Service; pay fairly good, a life berth, and the duties not too laborious. Arnold's friends bestowed themselves. Mr Gladstone gave a promise. The appointment was as definitely settled as such a thing can be; the commission actually made out and waiting for signature. Just when it came out in some review one of those articles in which Arnold assailed the Disestablishment with gentle and terrible ridicule which has so often infuriated his readers, they turned upon him. Mr Chamberlain, I believe, became their mouth-piece; himself, of course, a Dissenter and a Philistine. It is impossible to know just what was said, or done, or what influences were brought to bear on Mr Gladstone, but Mr Gladstone yielded—he, the Churchman of Churchmen, sacrificed the advocate and champion of his Church to the wrath of the Church's enemies. The Charity Commissionership was given to another. He never complained. All through his educational work he did the duties imposed upon him with cheerful loyalty. It was draggery, but useful draggery. What he might have done had fortune showered her favors on him, it is idle to guess. There is a theory that he abandoned poetry because he questioned whether his own sincerity and passion were sufficient, or were quite irrepressible in verse. But to one who once asked him why he wrote so little poetry in his later days, he answered: "Ah, if you knew how much harder it is than prose!"

Arnold's place in English society was not perhaps quite what his American friends may have supposed. It is natural to think that the company of a man so gifted would be sought everywhere, and that it would have been everywhere. But not in England. In England it was sought, but not universally, until a comparatively late period. He was, of course, known to and liked by many of the best people in the best circles of that huge whirlpool to which the name society is now given. Thirty or forty years ago he might not have been much regarded by the merely fashionable world. Things have moved rapidly since then, and most rapidly of all during the latter part of that eventful period. Yet Hayward, who knew if any man knew what London society was like, once selected Arnold as the type of the distinguished man whom the belle of the day courted. For we were discussing one morning at breakfast—just in the way in which society was made fast—given the way in which society was made fast. Hayward said that literary men had no reputation there, and he related how he had lately been asked to compose a list for a lady of great rank, new to London, who wanted to give good parties and dinners. "She would not have thanked me," said Hayward, "if I had put Matthew Arnold's name down." Some of us murmured; especially one man whose house had a reputation of its own for smart assemblies. Hayward turned on him sharply: "Lady ——— gave a party last night to the Prince and Princess of Wales. Whom had you there among all the writers and journalists and painters you know?" The suddenness of the assault took him by surprise, but he contrived, by good luck, to indicate two or three of the company then present who had been invited by his wife, or present, probably, by himself. "Well," groined Hayward, "you don't pretend you had Arnold?"

This little scene occurred some ten years ago, perhaps twelve. It remains true that among those two or three sets of fashionable and sometimes frivolous but generally charming women who dispute among themselves frequently in smartness Arnold was not a very frequent guest. They would, if they had thought of the matter, have said when they changed: "Oh, he is not in our set." A lady who had met him said he frightened her and was being further interrogated explained that it was his gravity of manner which caused this state of alarm.

A still more significant anecdote may be related. One of Arnold's friends was lunching on Monday with a lady of great social position whose rank is as high, or nearly as high, as any subject of the crown can hold, and who bears an illustrious name. The news of Arnold's death had just come, and this guest mentioned it to his hostess. She received it with a blank face—blank but for the expression of that effort toward politeness which good breeding induces. Arnold's name was clearly unknown to her. By an effort of memory she presently identified him as a man who had written books.

He had, of course, the society he cared most for. He was a favorite with many of the most cultivated and intellectual people who make part of the English aristocracy, and was to be met at dinners, and even parties, for which perhaps he did not greatly care, and in some of the most delightful country houses in England. It is needless to say that in the world of letters and among the people to whom literature and art are more than fashion he was something more than a favorite; he held the place awarded to a master. Anything he desired socially was easily within his reach. He had been staying this year at a house not far from London, whose owner is one of the ornaments of the patrician order; one of those men of character and brilliant capacities for whom it is permissible to take a certain sort of aristocracy; of this rank. Arnold's talk had kept the men—there were but two others, Dr. Jowett, one of them—at table by themselves after dinner till long past the hour when custom required that they should rejoin the ladies. The ladies complained, and at once the other men agreed in laying the responsibility on Arnold. "We forgot," at the time, we forgot you; we were listening to him." A friend told me yesterday a curious proof of devotion. "You know, Arnold dined with me pretty often, and liked his glass of port. I gave him, of course, my best, and I drank it with him always at the expense of a sharp attack of gout next day."

Both at Wotton (Lord Pembroke's) and at Aston Clinton (Mr. Cyril Flower's) he had been a guest within the last few weeks, as often before, and at both houses was thought in great spirits; his talk was continuous, his health apparently good. But when a walk was proposed he said, "Yes, only you must go at my pace." And he spoke of arranging his house in London as he was obliged to go about the grounds there. He had long known that he had a disease of the heart, and his physician, Sir Andrew Clark, had imposed upon him the same rules of life. I heard from a Liverpool acquaintance whom I met at the funeral the medical secret of his death. The little leap over the low fence which he had taken the day before

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COMMENT, OPINION AND INCIDENT GAT
FROM HERE AND THERE

ERED HERE AND ANOTHER VANDERBILT
stout, well-made man, approaching fifty years
of age, with a pleasing face and dark brown mustache.
His politics he is a Democrat, but his military political
views run counter to that of his party at the
present time. He believes in protective tariff as an
American principle of government. In chatting with
him the other day, I inquired if he did not find him-
self at some time finding this policy, when he
replied:
"I am at all. I find Democratic companions on the
special question numerous."
When I asked him what this element of the Demo-
cratic party would do in the coming Presidential cam-
paign, he said:
"That depends upon who is nominated for Presi-
dent. We would scarcely vote for any of your candi-
dates, but we have been quarrelling among them-
selves for many years, but if you were to put up
with a new man, a man for instance, like Chauncey
M. Depew, we will all vote for him. I believe that
Mr. Depew can carry the States of New-York, New-
Jersey and Connecticut with an overwhelming ma-
jority."

Mr. Barton has a son, twenty-four years of age, who
making some stir in Florida. He has purchased
great property on the east side of Lake Worth,
extending over to the ocean, where he has built a hotel
and is building a railroad. It is near Jupiter Inland
below the front line. Mr. Barton himself is in-
terested in railroads in Florida. He has been con-
sidered by the State authorities. It seems that a Rail-
road Commission had been established there some-
where over a year ago, which conceived the idea that
it must limit the passenger fare to three cents a mile.
It was very hard to convince them," said Mr. Bar-
ton, "that a sparsely settled State, with a small popu-
lation and light local travel, should not have rail-
road transportation at the same price as the densely
settled States, with their large population, their
dense and the travel enormous. They speedily
found, however, that their exactions were keeping
the people out of the State, and they raised the fare
to four and a half cents."

Ex-Commissioner Rollin M. Spure is a noted sto-
ry teller and whenever he appears in a public place
is surrounded by a group of acquaintances intent on
listening to him. One of his stories told recently was
that an Irish drill sergeant who had been put in charge
of an aqueduct guard. At the word of command
"Right face," one of the recruits turned completely
round, bringing himself exactly in the same position
as the sergeant.

"Holy Moses!" shrieked the drill sergeant, "Phoo-
ey your name by turn!" completely about, "What
right face?"

The recruit was at last awkward in his answer as
he was unable to understand the use of the word
which the intention of sending him to the guard house
imposed his name.

"You are a good man, whereupon Irish wit turned
back and the old sergeant said:
"Bejorra, and you couldn't help it then."

Commodore Van Santvoord has received the plenti-
ful title of Lord High Admiral from the officials of the
New-York Central Railroad with whom he recently
came in conflict. In connection with his line of Hud-
son River boats he has a dock at the foot of West Twenty-
fourth street, which the New York Central people have
been refusing to land their cars from boats.

It is said that the use of this dock by the
company is deemed excessive and protested vigorously.
Commodore used mild endeavors to persuade them
they will still be making and progress.
The result was that the New York Central people
completely over a week ago he was ordered to dis-
continue the use of the dock. The Twenty-second-street
dock, completely shutting off the boats. Within the next
four or five hours his bill was settled on his terms and
the Commodore was free, and at the same time the
title of the new title of Admiral.

Some of the police of New-York who have been
confronted with the force for a long time become
known among many people. This is the case with
John, good-natured, smooth-faced German, called
"Babe," who protected the children of Gramercy
Park for twelve or fifteen years, but is now on the retired
list by reason of age. Almost any bright day during
his period of service, he might be seen with a cluster
of boys and girls around him, the German love the
fact of his pack envelope.

It is said that Mr. Grant, the German love the
fact of his pack envelope. Since he has left the force he goes
about in broad daylight, and looks like a prosperous
business man.

Chauncey M. Depew is overwhelmed with the bur-
den of letters and newspapers with marked notes
that are pouring in upon him until his morning mail
looks like a small-sized post office. Everything that
he says or does is in some way picked up and carried
to the winds until it finds publication somewhere that
it is recognized.

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